

ABSTRACT

THESIS: Lockefield Gardens: Preservation of New Deal Public Housing in Indianapolis

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DATE: May, 2014

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Lockefield Gardens was a 1936 Public Works Administration housing project for Indianapolis blacks. This study analyzes the Lockefield Gardens historic preservation debate in the period of 1975 – 1985. The historical and descriptive overview of Lockefield Gardens provides a sense of this unique place. The practical politics of historic preservation and the theory of § 106 review are considered as they impacted the preservation/development controversy. Lastly, the lessons learned from the Lockefield Gardens deliberations are offered to help improve historic preservation efforts in the future. These include consideration of such factors as time, diversity and political leadership. The conclusion offers suggestions for an improved memorialization of Lockefield Gardens, as well as the proud and vibrant African American community that once resided there.